

Applicant : Robert G. Tryon III et al.  
Serial No. : 10/043,712  
Filed : January 8, 2002  
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Attorney's Docket No.: 17282-009001

### REMARKS

Claims 1-76 were pending in the case prior to amendment. Claims 1-4, 6-17, 25, 26, 28-37, 44-46, 48, 49, 51-53, 55-59, 66, and 67 stand rejected under one or more of U.S. Patent No. 6,199,018 to Quist ("Quist"), U.S. Patent No. 4,766,595 to Gollomp ("Gollomp"), U.S. Patent No. 6,226,597 to Eastman et al. ("Eastman"), and U.S. Patent No. 4,985,857 to Bajpai ("Bajpai"). Claims 5, 18-24, 27, 38-43, 47, 50, 54, and 60-65 stand objected-to. Claims 68-76 stand allowed. New claims 77-83 have been added. New claims 77-83 are supported in the specification; therefore, no new matter is added.

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, the rejections are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

#### Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to delete some features, as discussed in an interview with the Examiner on February 24, 2005. Claim 1 has further been amended to include features from allowable claims 18 and 21, and is in condition for allowance.

#### Claims 2-4, and 6-23

Claims 2-4 and 6-23 depend from claim 1, and are therefore in condition for allowance as well.

#### Claim 5

Allowable claim 5 has been amended to be in independent form. Features were also deleted from claim 5. Claim 5 is in condition for allowance.

#### Claim 77

New claim 77 depends from claim 5, and is thus in condition for allowance as well.

#### Claim 24

Allowable claim 24 has been amended to be in independent form. Features were also deleted from claim 24. Claim 24 is in condition for allowance.

#### Claim 78

New claim 78 depends from claim 24, and is thus in condition for allowance as well.

#### Claim 25

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Claim 25 has been amended to delete some features. Claim 25 has further been amended to include features from allowable claims 38 and 41, and is in condition for allowance.

Claims 26, 29, 30-46, and 79

Claims 26, 29, 30-46, and new claim 79 depend from claim 25, and are thus in condition for allowance as well.

Claim 27

Allowable claim 27 has been amended to be in independent form. Features were also deleted from claim 27. Claim 27 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 28 and 80

Claim 28 and new claim 80 depend from claim 27, and are thus in condition for allowance as well.

Claim 47

Allowable claim 47 has been amended to be in independent form. Features were also deleted from claim 47. Claim 47 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 81

New claim 81 depends from claim 47, and is thus in condition for allowance as well.

Claim 48

Claim 48 has been amended to delete some features. Claim 48 has further been amended to include features from allowable claims 60 and 63, and is in condition for allowance.

Claims 49, 51-53, and 55-67

Claims 49, 51-53, and 55-67 depend from claim 48, and are therefore in condition for allowance as well.

Claim 50

Allowable claim 50 has been amended to be in independent form. Features were also deleted from claim 50. Claim 50 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 54

Allowable claim 54 has been amended to be in independent form. Features were also deleted from claim 54. Claim 54 is in condition for allowance.

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Claims 82 and 83

New claim 82 includes features similar to allowable claim 27, and is therefore also in condition for allowance. Claim 83 depends from claim 82, and is in condition for allowance as well.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue, or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Claims 1-83 are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (858) 678-4311.

Please apply \$875.00 for excess claim fees and any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/28/05

Linda G. Gunderson  
Reg. No. 46,341

Fish & Richardson P.C.  
12390 El Camino Real  
San Diego, California 92130  
Telephone: (858) 678-5070  
Facsimile: (858) 678-5099  
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